

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

For Release September 2, 1976

Levitt 202/343-5634

## MARINE MAMMAL HEARING RESCHEDULED

The Washington, D.C., hearing on whether management of marine mammals in Alaska may be returned to State control has been rescheduled and the dates for filing testimony extended, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Proponents of the proposal must now submit their written testimony by September 9, 1976, with all others filing by September 30. The hearing will be held on October 19, 1976, at the U.S. Courthouse, Courtroom 9, 4th Floor, 3rd and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The public is invited to attend the hearing, but testimony will be accepted only from specified individuals and organizations as determined at a prehearing conference in May. Those presenting testimony will represent a wide range of viewpoints. Four other hearings were held in Alaska during the summer.

Also at issue is whether to waive the existing moratorium on the killing or capture of polar bears, walrus, sea otters, ringed seals, bearded seals, harbor seals, beluga whales, northern sea lions, ribbon seals and largha seals. The hearings also involve proposed Federal regulations concerning the taking of the nine species and the adequacy of the State's laws and regulations which regulate the mammals.

Any person desiring further information concerning these proceedings may contact the Presiding Officer, Administrative Law Judge Malcolm P. Littlefield, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203 (telephone 703/557-9200).